

# A TERRIBLE FIRE AT BALTIMORE, MD.

Nearly all of the Business Portion of the City Completely Wiped Out of Existence.

The Loss will Amount to Fully Forty Millions. The Firemen were Utterly Helpless Before the Roaring Furnace. The Nearby Cities were Appealed to for Help but Aid was Useless.

Baltimore, Feb. 8.—This most destructive conflagration in the history of Baltimore raged practically unchecked during many hours, completely destroyed scores of the largest business houses in the wholesale district and involved losses mounting into the millions.

Owing to the wide extent of the calamity it will be tomorrow before even an approximate estimate can be made, though it is certain that it has already exceeded \$50,000,000.

The fire broke out shortly before 11 o'clock this morning in the wholesale dry goods store of John E. Hurst & Co., on Hopkins Place, in the heart of the business district, with a series of loud explosions which were heard in remote parts of the city and spread with fearful rapidity.

In a half hour there were a dozen big warehouses in the wholesale dry goods and notions district burning fiercely. The entire city fire department was called out, but was utterly powerless to check the spread of the flames, which were aided by high winds, and by noon there were savage fires in at least thirty big warehouses, and the conflagration was steadily eating its way into successive blocks, east, north, west and south.

Building after building fell a prey to the flames and apparently there was no possible means of arresting the onward sweep of destruction.

On Baltimore street the block between Liberty and Sharp was soon ablaze, there came the next block east to Hanover, and after that the block on the south side to Charles street broke out into flames, the Consolidated Gas company's building and Oehm's Acme hall burning fiercely.

Meanwhile there were stores north of Baltimore street being similarly consumed. Mullin's hotel caught and other buildings near it. West of Liberty street, on the south side of Baltimore, the block was doomed, and the big Baltimore Bargain house also caught. Down in Hopkins Place, where the conflagration started, Hurst's building and the other wholesale houses on both sides of the streets crumbled and fell.

The big dry goods houses of Daniel Miller & Sons and R. M. Sutton & Co. were soon aflame and along German, east and west from the Hurst building, there were a dozen buildings burning and scores were threatened. The spectacle of ruin and destruction from any point in these doomed blocks was something terrifying.

Mass & Kemper's big wholesale store on Baltimore street quickly succumbed to the flames and the walls fell with a crash that was heard for many squares. The Hurst building was utterly destroyed, not even a wall ten feet high being left standing, and was apparently the center of the cauldron from whence the flames radiated over the doomed neighborhood.

On Hopkins Place the Hopkins Savings bank and the National Exchange bank were gutted by flames, the few streams of water that the firemen were able to turn on them proving utterly ineffectual to even halt the destruction. Here were the ruins of the John E. Hurst & Co. structure and next to it that of S. Hecht, Jr., & Sons, was in flames. Adjoining was a large building owned by the William Koch Importing company, which also quickly was destroyed.

Across the street the Stanley & Brown Drug company building fell a sudden prey, while fronting on the Baltimore street side of this block were the Roxbury Rye Distilling company, the building occupied by Silberman & Todes, the house of Allen Sons & Co., which had hardly been completed, while next to it was the establishment of M. Moses & Co. On the corner was the building occupied by Messrs. Sugar & Shear and several other smaller concerns. All of these were swallowed up in flames, and in fact, the whole block was nothing but a cauldron of fire.

At 1:30 o'clock Mullin's hotel, a seven-story structure at Liberty and Baltimore streets, was in flames from garret to cellar, and its great height and narrowness acted as a sort of flue, which converted the doomed building into a huge and dreadful torch. All the guests had been ordered out of the building shortly after the fire broke out in John E. Hurst's place. There was no panic or confusion, and none were injured.

Though every bit of fire fighting apparatus in the city was called into requisition as the flames continued to spread, the firemen realized that they had a task before them which was too great for them to combat. Telegrams for fire engines were sent to Washington and Philadelphia, and about 1 o'clock six engines arrived from Washington and four from Philadelphia and joined in the battle with the flames.

Engines from stations in Baltimore, Howard, Anne Arundel and Hartford counties also arrived as soon as possible, some of the apparatus traveling a distance of thirty miles and more.

Water plugs in every section within a radius of half a mile from the fire were in use, and it is roughly estimated that there were 350 hose all playing at one time upon different parts of the conflagration.

With loud roars wall after wall toppled into the streets and firemen ran for their lives.

Two fire trucks burned and an engine was buried by a falling wall.

The whole city was notified of the conflagration by a terrific explosion which occurred some minutes after 11 o'clock. A sharp splitting roar went up, with reverberations like thunder. This was followed by a peculiar whistling noise, like that made by a shrill wind. The churches in the central section of the city were filled with worshippers, many of whom became frightened, and while no panics ensued hundreds of men and women left their seats and went outside to see what had happened. In a few moments the streets and pavements all over the city were crowded with excited people.

## THE NEWS IN BRIEF.

For the Week Ending Feb. 6. Lake Village, Ark., was almost totally destroyed by fire. The shipbuilding trust fight ended by C. M. Schwab surrendering control. Ernest Cashell was hanged at Calgary, N. W. T., for the murder of a ranchman. John W. Daniel has been reelected United States senator by the Virginia legislature.

Lord Wolseley declared in London that the American army was the finest in the world.

Business failures in January aggregated \$18,483,573, against \$12,978,979 in January, 1903.

The National Republican Editorial association began its annual convention at Washington.

The Baptist May anniversaries will be held in Cleveland, O., from May 16 to 24, inclusive.

Boxing bouts at Detroit, Mich., have been prohibited by a special order of Mayor Maybury.

Five students have been expelled from Princeton (N. J.) university for cheating at examinations.

Gov. Peabody, of Colorado, has proclaimed the term of martial law at Cripple Creek at an end.

The south is estimated to be \$300,000,000 richer through D. J. Sully's bull campaign in cotton.

Mrs. Abby B. Frost, sister of the late George Francis Train, died at Omaha at the age of 91 years.

Mexico has issued a decree forbidding any person bearing firearms to cross the border of the country.

William W. Shaw, pioneer in the cracker manufacturing in the west, died at his home in Chicago, aged 72 years.

Congressman Charles E. Puller has been re-nominated by the Twelfth district republican convention at Ottawa, Ill.

Mayor McClellan, of New York, ordered six theaters closed because they have not made certain alterations for safety.

National banks have been notified by Secretary Shaw that 20 per cent. of government funds held by them will be needed.

Harry Forbes was knocked out in the fifth round by Abe Attel, of St. Louis, in a battle for the world's featherweight honors.

M. S. Otero, probably the wealthiest man in New Mexico and a delegate in congress from 1875 to 1888, died at Albuquerque.

Secretary Taft asks congress to appropriate \$3,000 to pay for chickens stolen by the soldiers during the maneuvers.

Adolph Schwarzmann, one of the founders of Puck, and editor in chief of that paper, died in New York, aged 66 years.

Two twin baby sisters named Black were so badly bitten by rats at the Logan county children's home in Ohio that they died.

Thrilling experiences at sea were related when the steamer Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse arrived in New York, 43 hours late.

Yaqui Indians held up a stage between Oriz and Las Cruces, Mexico, and the passengers, six in number, were massacred.

Corporal Charles A. Valois and his young wife, spurned by relatives and penniless, sought death together at Saginaw, Mich.

J. G. Myers, a farmer, died at Carthage, Mo., having starved himself to death. He had not eaten a particle of food for 49 days.

John Winters (colored), who shot and killed John Eastland, a wealthy planter of Doodsville, Miss., was lynched by a mob.

A caucus of democratic members of the Maryland legislature selected Isidor Rayner, of Baltimore, for the United States senatorship.

Ex-Secretary of War Root, at a banquet in his honor by the New York Union League club, said he returned convinced the government was growing better.

George A. Rose, late cashier of the Produce Exchange bank in Cleveland, who confessed to embezzling \$187,000, has been sentenced to ten years' imprisonment.

## THE MARKETS.

New York, Feb. 6.	
LIVE STOCK—Steers	\$4.00 @ 5.60
Hogs	5.10 @ 5.40
Sheep	3.00 @ 4.12 1/2
WHEAT—Patents	4.85 @ 5.15
WHEAT—May	95 1/2 @ 96 1/2
RYE—State and Jersey	60 @ 64
CORN—May	55 1/2 @ 56 1/2
WHEAT—Track White	47 @ 52
BUTTER	14 @ 24
CHEESE	10 1/2 @ 12
EGGS	32 @ 35
CHICAGO.	
CATTLE—Fancy Beves	50 @ 57 1/2
Red Texas Steers	3 3/4 @ 4 1/2
Medium Beef Steers	4 1/4 @ 4 3/4
Heavy Steers	4 1/4 @ 5 1/2
Oats	4 1/4 @ 4 5/8
HOGS—Assorted Light	4 1/4 @ 4 3/4
Heavy Packing	4 1/4 @ 4 5/8
Heavy Mixed	4 1/4 @ 4 5/8
SHEEP	3 1/4 @ 5 1/2
BUTTER—Creamery	24 @ 24
Dairy	27 @ 30
EGGS—Fresh	27 @ 30
POTATOES (per bu.)	13 @ 13
MESS FLOUR—May	13 1/2 @ 13 5/8
Oats	7 1/2 @ 7 1/2
GRAIN—Wheat, May	93 1/2 @ 96
Corn, May	54 1/2 @ 56
Oats, May	44 1/2 @ 45 1/2
Barley, Good to Choice	48 @ 57
Rye, May	63 1/2 @ 65 1/2
MILWAUKEE.	
GRAIN—Wheat, No. 1 North	81 @ 82
Corn, May	56 @ 56 1/2
Oats, Standard	44 @ 44 1/2
Rye, No. 1	65 @ 66 1/2
KANSAS CITY.	
GRAIN—Wheat, May	78 1/2 @ 78 1/2
Corn, May	46 1/2 @ 46 1/2
Oats, No. 2 White	41 1/2 @ 42
BUTTER	18 @ 21
ST. LOUIS.	
CATTLE—Best Steers	43 @ 50
Texas Steers, Grass	2 1/2 @ 4 1/2
HOGS—Packers	4 1/4 @ 4 1/2
Butchers' Best Heavy	4 1/4 @ 4 1/2
SHEEP—Wethers	3 1/2 @ 5 1/2
OMAHA.	
CATTLE—Native Steers	33 @ 50
Stockers and Feeders	2 1/2 @ 3 1/2
HOGS—Heavy	4 1/4 @ 4 1/2
SHEEP—Wethers	3 1/2 @ 4 1/2

## THE JAPANESE ARMY

One of the Finest Bodies of Fighting Men in the World.

Trained by French and German Officers of High Rank and Commanded by Educated and Patriotic Officers.

In the early days of army organization in Japan many French officers were employed to impart instruction, but in recent times these have been superseded by German officers of the highest rank. The trained army of Japan today consists of about 500,000 men, each one of whom is about as perfect a fighting machine as the human being can become.

According to Japanese conscription law, all males between 17 and 40 years of age are liable to duty, either in the army or navy. Conscripts are divided among various branches of the service, according to age, physical ability, or intellectual capacity. Conscription lasts 12 years and four months, divided into actual service and reserves.

Service is required for the first three years after entering the Japanese army, during which time the conscript must live in barracks. Though the period of conscription is 12 years, length of actual service is seldom more than three years; though at any time during the whole period the soldier is liable to call to active duty. Though liable to a call at 17, few men in Japan are actually conscripted until their twentieth year. In recent years, very few men have been called out. In 1897 there were called only 20,000 out of a conscript list of 350,000 available men.

Japanese citizens greatly prefer the army to the navy, as the profession of the sailor is more or less looked down upon. This is due mainly to the Japanese love for home life, the calling of the sea taking men away from their families, whereas, the soldier, even when actively in the army, may often visit his home. Another reason—quite Japanese—is the fact that the soldier's uniform is far more pleasing to the Japanese sense of color than is that of the sailor. The soldier has more chance of displaying himself as a "fine bird" than has the sailor.

A striking peculiarity of the Japanese soldier is not so much his conduct



FIELD MARSHAL OYAMA, Chief of Staff and Most Noted Strategist of Japan.

while on duty, as his behavior when not soldiering.

Alfred Stead says that you can go all over Japan and never see a drunken soldier—that is, a Japanese soldier. When off duty, soldiers go about in the quietest manner imaginable. Their principal diversion is drinking tea with their friends, or hanging about the old book shops. Unless a Jap is actually engaged in war, you will find him an extremely childlike creature.

On a war footing, however, the Japanese soldier is anything but childlike. The training of the Japanese soldiers is one of the most exact of sciences. Pupils are so apt, however, they acquire tactics, and master mechanical details so remarkably, that seldom more than four months is required to convert a peaceable citizen into a skillful soldier. Quickness and individual aptitude are the distinguishing characteristics of the Japanese soldier. In this, he presents a remarkable contrast to the soldier material of other nations—with exception of the Americans, perhaps.

The peace footing of the Japanese army is 183,000 train men; the complete war basis being 526,000 officers and men, exclusive of transport. The watchword of the Japanese army is "up-to-date." There is not a military maneuver known to European or American army practice that has not been carefully studied in Japan. All the arms and equipment of every sort are modern to a degree, the army keeping up with improvements as soon as they come out, and testing constantly to acquire the best arms.

Taking the Japanese soldier for all in all, he stands to-day at the very top-notch of modern efficiency in matters of war, and he will assuredly acquit himself well in any contingency.

## THE GERMAN EMPRESS.

Berlin Court Circles Alarmed at Reports Concerning Her Majesty's Physical Condition.

There is great anxiety in Berlin regarding the health of Empress Augusta Victoria. Prof. von Bergmann, the famous specialist, has held several consultations of the court physicians. A couple of years ago the empress sprained her foot, while taking a cure in Bavaria. Although no bones were broken, the foot never healed. The injury was recently aggravated by the appearance of varicose veins, and it is feared further complications may set in.

Empress Augusta Victoria is the spouse of the German emperor, Wilhelm II., to whom she was married February 27, 1881. She is a portly lady, affable in manner and popular with all classes. The empress is a member of the house of Schleswig-Holstein, and at the time of her marriage was considered to be one of the handsomest princesses in the empire.

## USES STRONG LANGUAGE.

Substance of Mississippi Governor's Message, Which is Repeated by Northern Educators.

In his inaugural address delivered before a joint session of the two houses of the Mississippi legislature, Gov. James K. Vardaman declared that the growing tendency of the negro to attack white women is nothing more or less than the manifestation of the racial desire for social equality. In strong and unmeasured terms he declared that education is the curse of the negro race, and urged the legislature to enact an amendment to the constitution that will place the distribution of the common school fund solely within power of the legislature.

This is the essence of the platform on which Gov. Vardaman was elected in the state campaign last summer, and his utterances on the negro problem are even stronger than any of his



JAMES K. VARDAMAN, Governor of Mississippi Who Opposes Negro Education.

views previously expressed on the subject. In part he said:

"What shall we do with the negro? Certainly the education suited to the white child does not suit the negro. This has been demonstrated by 40 years of experience, and the expenditure in the southern states of nearly \$300,000,000.

"As a race the negro is deteriorating morally every day. Time has demonstrated that he is more criminal as a free man than as a slave; that he is increasing in criminality with frightful rapidity, being one-third more criminal in 1890 than he was in 1880.

"The startling facts revealed by the census show that those who can read and write are more criminal than the illiterates, which is true of no other element of our population.

"In the south—Mississippi particularly—I know he is growing worse every year. You can scarcely pick up a newspaper whose pages are not blackened with the account of an unmentionable crime committed by a negro brute.

"Slavery is the only process by which he has ever been made partly civilized. God Almighty created the negro for a menial. He is essentially a servant. In every age of the world's history it has been shown that his civilization will last only so long as he is under control of the superior race that inculturated it. When left to himself he has universally gone back to the barbarism of his native jungles.

"The time has come when the truth should be told about this matter. It matters not how disagreeable it may be to hear it. The first step toward changing the educational system of the state, so as to meet the demands of both races, it occurs to me, is for the legislature to submit to the people a proposition to amend the constitution so as to give the legislature unrestricted authority in dealing with the public school question."

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THE EMPRESS OF GERMANY, (State of Her Health is Causing Great Anxiety in Berlin.)

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## DAKOTA LAUNCHED.

The Event was Highly Successful in Every Respect.

Ten Thousand People saw Miss Flemington Break the Traditional Bottle as the Ship Took the Waves.

New London, Conn., Feb. 6.—The Dakota, the second steel steamship for James J. Hill's Great Northern line from Seattle to the Orient, was launched from the Eastern Shipbuilding company's yard in this city today, amid din of whistles from harbor craft, factories and railway locomotives, without a hitch. This twenty-five thousand tons of steel, shaped into an immense hull 630 feet long, 74 feet broad and 56 feet high, slid gently into the water, as smoothly as a plank shoved from a beach, scarcely rippling the surface.

The launching was watched by 10,000 persons from the wharves, the heights across the river and the parapets of Forts Griswold and Trumbull. The weather was disappointing, but it did not interfere with the event. The 400 special guests occupied the deck of a large steel car float, building for the Consolidated railway, and on the ways adjoining the Dakota.

The James J. Hill special train of eleven cars rolled into the shipyards at 11:30 this morning, bearing 250 persons specially bidden to the ceremony. Mr. Hill was in high spirits and the center of a merry coterie, who plied him with marine terms and asked questions upon shipbuilding topics. Miss Clara Hill accompanied her father, and, with Miss May Belle Flemington of Ellendale, N. D., sponsor for the Dakota, was followed by a train of interested friends who passed a half-hour under the sides of the ship watching the work upon the wedges.

Then there was a rehearsing of the christening and under the guidance of President Charles R. Hanscom of the ship building company, Miss Flemington went through the ceremony from the staging on a level with the 15-foot watermark of the vessel.

Half an hour before the appointed time the final inspection of the launching ways was made by Mr. Hanscom and Mr. Hill and then the guests were bidden to the launching stand and Miss Flemington took her position on the little stand at the ship's prow with Miss Hill, Mr. Hill and Mr. Hanscom. The word was given the wedge drivers and sawyers and they began their work. The last two or three blocks stuck obstinately and had to be split to fragments, therefore liberating the immense weight resting upon them. Finally there was a rending, cracking sound, as the ship tore away the remaining bond and started, the crowd as one person shouting "There she goes!"

The movement was slow at first, but the ship, steadily gathered momentum and receded about fifteen feet a second. The friction scorched the ways and raised a curtain of smoke. SHE USED CHAMPAGNE.

With a slight show of nervousness Miss Flemington broke the bottle of champagne against the cutwater, saying: "I christen thee Dakota," the guests cheering her vociferously.

The Dakota began to slacken to the resistance of the water when half over and rose to an even keel and floated in a mass of blocks and planks, the remains of the sliding ways. Her anchors held a few hundred feet from the shore. The launching had been a complete success.

The guests, numbering 350, gathered in the loft of the shipyard, which had been converted into a pretty banquet hall, decorated with flags, bunting and flowers. President Hanscom of the shipbuilding company presided, and the orator was John McGinley of New London. Mr. Hill made a brief address. The health of Miss Hill, Miss Flemington and Mr. Hill were drunk standing, and the toasts to the Dakota and her sister ship, the Minnesota, were finished in salvos of cheers.

## FURY OF STORMS.

Several People Become Lost in Blizzard and After Wandering on the Prairie Lose Their Lives.

Mandan, N. D., Feb. 6.—News is coming in of disasters in the late storm, owing to the settlers being unprepared. Mr. and Mrs. Anton Huff and two children, who reside near Crown Butte, twelve miles northwest of Mandan, were returning home from a visit when they were compelled to stop in a vacant shack for shelter. Coal, wood and a stove were found, but they had no matches with which to start a fire. One of the children died, and the mother and the other child are in a precarious condition, as a result of the exposure.

August Thomas, who worked for his brother south of Mandan, was frozen during the storm.

He was hauling a load of hay and the rack tipped over and the team ran away. He followed the team and was lost and died in the snow.

Mrs. Mary Noble, aged 84, died last night.

Purchaser—"So this is an improved typewriter?" Agent—"Yes; if you don't know how to spell a word there is a key that will make a blot."—Philadelphia Record.

## CURRENT TOPICS.

The Koreans use neither bedsteads nor chairs.

Artists' models in Berlin have formed themselves into a trade.

The typewriter is more largely used in Mexico than in France.

American silverware is too light and ornate to suit English tastes.

Texas hay can be sold in England cheaper than the home product.

The world contains 99,000 locomotives, of which 55,500 are in Europe.

## NORTH DAKOTA NEWS.

Government Help.

Secretary Wilson has replied to the petitions of the live stock association of North Dakota and the government regarding the eradication of cattle scab in North Dakota, and says that his department will assume charge of the work as soon as the weather will permit.

Experts will be sent here to locate dipping tanks and then the men in the department who are experienced in the work will take active charge. All the state will be asked to do in to furnish a force to compel an observance of the usual quarantine regulations in case any cattlemen refuse to do as directed.

Great gratification is expressed by cattlemen at the favorable turn of affairs, which will insure a clean bill of health for the cattle of the state within a few months.

## Life Insurance Sold.

A paid-up policy of insurance on the life of R. A. Eva, a prominent resident of Duluth, who at one time was Northern Pacific agent in Grand Forks, was sold at the front door of the court house by Sheriff A. F. Turner to the Union National bank for \$100. This was the only bid received. During his residence in Grand Forks Mr. Eva made a loan at the bank and put up a paid-up insurance policy in an old-line company as security. The original debt was never paid and in default the bank foreclosed, having a claim of nearly \$1,200 against the policy.

## Rich Man Crazy.

From brooding over the hallucination that all the widows and old maids in the country wanted to marry him, Farmer Eugene Butler became insane and was committed to the insane hospital at Jamestown.

Butler is about 40 years of age and has lived by himself for a number of years on a valuable farm located at Shawnee, in the western part of the county. He is probably the wealthiest man who has ever been committed to an asylum from that county, his property being valued at from \$40,000 to \$50,000.

## Rustling for Grass.

Some western farmers who have stock that are liable to be short of hay before the new grass comes, have contrived home made snow plows, with two planks put together wedge shape, and properly braced. They hitch enough horses to this contrivance, and run it over the ground where they know there is plenty of grass. It displaces most of the snow, and cattle will follow the swath so made, thus saving the demand on the rapidly disappearing haystacks.

## The Red River.

Representative Spaulding introduced a bill in congress declaring non-navigable the Red River of the North in North Dakota, from south of the point where the Cheyenne river empties into the Red. The bill further provides that Fargo, Moorhead and all other corporations, firms and bodies politic shall be relieved of the necessity of maintaining draw or pontoon bridges across the Red river along the stretch declared non-navigable.

## Accidentally Shot.

John Tumbach, living about ten miles from Linton accidentally shot his wife and child. Seeing a rabbit in the yard he got the shot gun and started after it. In his hurry, the gun was discharged, the charge going through a door and fifteen number five shot entered his wife's head, one in the eye and two in the shoulder. The child received two in the head. They will recover.

## Dropped Dead.

Superintendent Bertrum of the Richland county poor farm dropped dead at Wahpeton. He had been in the southern part of the county for a patient and was assisting the party off the Milwaukee train on its arrival when he dropped